

Appln. No. 09/696,095
Amdt. dated October 29, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 2, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The August 2, 2004 Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, claims are cancelled and added, and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

PRIOR ART REJECTION

In the Office Action, claims 40-47 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over USP 5,813,348 (Zingher). In response, claims 40-47 are cancelled, and new claims 48-56 are added.

USP 5,813,348 (Zingher) discloses an information transmission system including a network connecting printers at printing plants and their customers, wherein the information transmission system minimizes the cost for manufacturing printed materials, the transfer route and the transfer time, and exploits the full potential of the printing plants' capacity to process orders.

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Zingher teaches that the printing plant customer 30 creates an original image to be printed, and forms a requirement profile of a printing order setting the type of material to be printed on, the number of copies to be printed, the desired printing quality, and the destination to which the printed copies are to be distributed by inputting an additional parameter. Then, one of the printing plants regarded as being optimum for processing the printing order is selected by a print job processor 14 which is connected to the network.

In contrast, in the present claimed invention, a portable terminal connected to the network makes a reservation for printing of information, and generates identification information corresponding to the reserved printing information. The reserved printing information is associated and stored with the generated identification information. When the identification information is transmitted from the printer by operation of the user, the reservation information storage means is retrieved based on the identification information to read reserved information corresponding to identification information. Then, the reserved printing information is read, and the printing information is transmitted to the printer to be printed out.

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That is, in the present invention, a user can make a printing reservation by arbitrarily selecting desired printing information from a plurality of printing information stored in the printing information storage means, by a printing reservation screen image transmitted to the user's portable terminal from printing reservation means. Thus, the user has the advantage of printing reserved information from a printer by merely inputting identification information in a printer provided at a desired arbitrary place. However, in the invention of Zingher, as the print job processor 14 selects a printing plant, it is impossible for a user to arbitrarily select a printing plant. A user cannot print an original image at a printing plant in a desired arbitrary place.

In view of the foregoing, independent claims 48, 51 and 54 are patentable over the cited reference under 35 USC 102 as well as 35 USC 103.

Claims 49, 50, 52, 53, 55 and 56 are patentable over the cited reference in view of their dependence on one of the independent claims and because the reference does not disclose, teach or suggest each of the limitations set forth in the dependent claims.

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In view of the foregoing, claims 48-56 are in form for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

CLAIM FEE

The present application, as amended, now includes two (2) independent claims and nine (9) total claims, and the highest number of independent and total claims for which payment was previously made is three (3) and thirty-nine (39) respectively. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that no fee is due for the addition of new claims 48-56. However, if it is determined that any additional fee is due for the presentation of new claims 48-56, please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-1378 for such sum.

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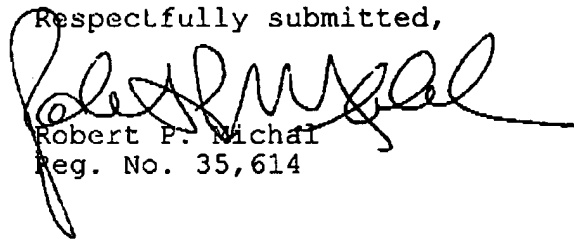
If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is support for a contrary view.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims, and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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